(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a), as above.

(c) to (e) The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality at reasonable prices. The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control. Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves, however, the Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. This power of Government applies to Patented medicines as well.

**Prices of medicines**

485. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revised the prices of certain medicine and drugs after the new excise norms;

(b) if so, whether prices of over the board medicines will go up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has not revised the prices of any scheduled formulation after allowing the abatement on retail price for levy of excise duty by Ministry of Finance on 8.1.2005. The prices of scheduled formulations are not likely to go up due to this change.

**Demand of urea in Bihar**

†486. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a demand of urea and DAP fertilizers in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the quantum of fertilizers demanded and supplied during the last two years; in Bihar, district-wise?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Assessment of the demand of urea and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is made by the Government of India in consultation with the State for the State. Availability of these fertilizers are ensured at the State level. Partial distribution of urea being controlled under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), its availability is ensured at the State level. DAP is decontrolled fertilizer and its availability depends on market forces of demand and supply and the State has to tie up with different manufacturers for supply to the States.

Ensuring availability of urea and DAP to different districts/areas within the state is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Demand and availability of urea and DAP in Bihar during the last two years was as under:—

(in 000'MT)

| Season | | Urea | DAP |
|---|---|---|---|
| Kharif, 2002 | Demand | 650.00 | 120.00 |
| | Availability | 660.22 | 91.70 |
| Rabi, 2002-03 | Demand | 700.00 | 200.00 |
| | Availability | 764.68 | 5.84 |
| Kharif, 2003 | Demand | 660.00 | 150.00 |
| | Availability | 724.00 | 13.96 |
| Rabi, 2003-04 | Demand | 720.00 | 200.00 |
| | Availability | 719.19 | 60.38 |

**Fertilizer plant in Assam**

487. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to set up fertilizer plants in the country particularly in the State of Assam; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?